

*The Case of most of the Cheesemongers, who Petition for an Act of Parliament for the Redresse of Abuses in Weighing and Packing Butter; and appointing Captain Robert Manly to be the Officer for Weighing and Marking of Butter Casks; according to his Majesties gracious Intentions, for Regulating former Abuses.*



HE Firkin of Butter hath been reputed, and ought to weigh Sixty four pounds; viz. Fifty six pounds of Neat Butter, and the Cask but Eight pounds, and the Pot of Butter Twenty pounds; viz. Fourteen pounds of Neat Butter, and the Cask but six pounds: but by the fraud of the Makers and Packers of Butter, the Firkins of Butter weigh but Sixty two pounds, some but Sixty pounds, and some but Fifty and eight pounds; and the Cask usually Ten pounds, often Twelve pounds, and sometimes Fourteen pounds; and the Pots weigh generally Seven pounds, usually Eight pounds, and sometimes Nine pounds; and also Whay butter, and sometimes Bricks and Stones, and other corrupt matters, are mixt with good Cream Butter.

For the Redress of which wrongs, King Charles the first of Blessed memory, in the Ninth year of his Reign, upon the Petition of the Freemen of London Trading in Butter, and Cheese; did grant to Captain John Read the Office of Branding and Marking all empty Butter Casks in England, and Wales; with the allowance of Two pence per Firkin, for every Vessel so Marked.

In the Twelfth year of King Charles the First, upon the Petition of the said Freemen, who perceived the Benefit which might accrue (to all who bought Butter) by the due executing the said Office, his Majesty was pleased to renew the said Office, with farther Powers to the said Captain John Read.

Two pretended Acts have been made, to correct the Abuses; but were both ineffectual, no Officer being appointed; to execute the intended Remedy.

All who Trade in Butter acknowledge the Abuses, and desire Remedy, and do offer Two Petitions, and Two Bills for an Act of Parliament; most of them desire, That it may be with an Officer, and that Captain Robert Manly may be the person, according to the Kings pleasure, he having passed all Offices, but the Great Seal for it, since his Majesties most happy Restauration; and in that Bill Forty pounds per Annum, is reserved to the King, his Heirs and Successors, payable at the Exchequer. Some few would have an Act without an Officer; but they are either Makers or Packers of Butter, and conscious of the Deceipts, or such as generally oppose the Kings Grants, for they all acknowledge the Two pence per Firkin, to be a very reasonable allowance for the Officers pains.

*Reasons for the passing the Bill with an Officer.*

First, Two pretended Acts, though with force enough to second them, did not thoroughly reform the abuses; because an Officer was wanting, which if they were unwilling to name, it was either because in those ill dayes they would not make use of the prudence of his late Majesty, or that they who packed up Butter drew up the Bill, and were unwilling to discontinue their Cheats, or would have that pretended Act like the people, good or bad, as their genius disposed them.

Secondly, Either there must be an Officer, or else every thing must be left to a common Informer, or the party grieved must have his special remedy: And if the care is cast upon the common Informer, he who hath occasioned 1000 l. wrong, will procure an Information with a faint Prosecution, which will barre those who would effectually prosecute, or else no Information will be preferred; for as they say, *Quæ communiter tenentur, communiter negliguntur*; so that which every man may do, no man looks upon as his duty; and for the party grieved to take his speciall remedy, would be to act that by thousands, and perhaps ill, which may be done by a single person, and probably well, *Et frustra fit per plura, quod fieri potest per pauciora*,

Thirdly, King Charles the First, upon the Petition of the Tradesmen, was pleased to apply the first Plaister to the wound, therefore it may not be unreasonable, that the acknowledgement of the Cure should be rendred to him who first prescribed it, by giving the nomination of the Officer, to the King, his Heirs and Successors.

*if this motion with objection they shall be fully answered & not reading at a Court*